

storing on the [first] map server computer coordinate data indicative of spatial coordinates of at least one point associated with the geographical area represented by the map, so as to enable correlation of points on the map with their corresponding geographical location;

storing on [a second] an information server computer information data relating to at least one place of interest within the geographical area, said information data including data representative of the spatial coordinates of the place of interest within the area;

transmitting a map request to the [first] map server computer from a client computer, and transmitting from the [first] map server computer to the client computer in response to the map request the map data;

[utilising] utilizing the map data to display an image of the map on a visual display unit associated with the client computer;

transmitting an information request to the [second] information server computer from the client computer, and transmitting from the information server computer to the client computer in response to the information request the information data relating to at least one place of interest within the geographical area; and

displaying the information data relating to at least one place of interest on the visual display unit.

231. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 30¹, wherein the map request is transmitted before the information request, the information request being formulated by including coordinate data provided by the [first] map server computer.

E1
Conced.

32. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 30, wherein the information request is transmitted before the map request, the map request being formulated by including coordinate data provided by the [second] information server computer.

16 34. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a computer system, the method comprising:

E2
Cont.

storing on a map server computer map data representative of a map of a geographical area;

storing on the map server computer coordinate data indicative of the spatial coordinates of at least one point associated with the geographical area represented by the map, so as to enable correlation of points on the map with their corresponding geographical location;

storing on an information server computer information data relating to at least one place of interest within the geographical area, said information data including data representative of the spatial coordinates of the place of interest within the area;

transmitting a map request to the map server computer from a client computer, and transmitting from the map server computer to the client computer in response to the map request the map data;

[utilising] utilizing the map data to display an image of the map on a visual display unit associated with the client computer;

transmitting an information request to the information server computer from the client computer, and transmitting from the information server computer to the client computer in

response to the information request the information data relating to at least one place of interest within the geographical area;

displaying the information data relating to at least one place of interest on the visual display unit; and

superimposing information relating to the place of interest on the image on the visual display unit, at a position on the image corresponding to the location of the place of interest on the map, wherein

the information superimposed on the image is a hypertext link.

1735. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a computer system, the method comprising:

storing on a map server computer map data representative of a map of a geographical area;

storing on the map server computer coordinate data indicative of the spatial coordinates of at least one point associated with the geographical area represented by the map, so as to enable correlation of points on the map with their corresponding geographical location;

storing on an information server computer information data relating to at least one place of interest within the geographical area, said information data including data representative of the spatial coordinates of the place of interest within the area;

transmitting a map request to the map server computer from a client computer, and transmitting from the map server computer to the client computer in response to the map request the map data;

[utilising] utilizing the map data to display an image of the map on a visual display unit associated with the client computer;

transmitting an information request to the information server computer from the client computer, and transmitting from the information server computer to the client computer in response to the information request the information data relating to at least one place of interest within the geographical area;

displaying the information data relating to at least one place of interest on the visual display unit; and

superimposing information relating to the place of interest on the image on the visual display unit, at a position on the image corresponding to the location of the place of interest on the map, wherein

the client computer includes means for scrolling the map image to display an image of a different geographical area, and means for varying the displayed data relating to the at least one place of interest on the visual display unit so as to take account of the change in the displayed geographical area.

~~630~~. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim ~~38~~⁵, wherein the client computer includes means for formulating a further request to the [second] information server computer, to identify places of interest lying within the smaller or larger geographical area.

~~740~~. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim ~~38~~¹, including:

storing on the [first] map server computer a list of categories of places of interest;

retrieving the list with the map data; and

displaying on the visual display unit a respective icon for each said category.

2046. (Twice Amended) A computer system, the computer system comprising:

E4
Cont
a [first] map server computer for storing map data representative of a map of a geographical area and coordinate data representative of the spatial coordinates of at least one point lying within the area represented by the map;

an [second] information server computer for storing information data representative of at least one place of interest within the geographical area, said data including data representative of the spatial coordinates of the place of interest within the area; and

a client computer, the client computer having a visual display unit;

wherein the client computer includes

means for transmitting a map request to the [first] map server computer to request transfer to the client computer of the map data,

means for displaying an image of the map on the visual display unit, and

means for transmitting an information request to the [second] information server computer to identify places of interest known to it and lying within the geographical area,

wherein the [second] information server computer includes means for transmitting to the client computer in response to the information request the data representative of at least one place of interest within the geographical area, and

wherein the client computer includes means for displaying said data associated with the place of interest on the visual display unit.

21⁴⁷. (Twice Amended) A computer system according to claim ²⁰~~46~~, wherein the client computer includes means for formulating the information request by including coordinate data provided by the [first] map server computer.

22⁴⁸. (Twice Amended) A computer system according to claim ²⁰~~46~~, wherein the client computer includes means for formulating the map request by including coordinate data provided by the [second] information server computer.

32⁵². (Twice Amended) A computer system according to claim ³¹~~51~~, wherein the client computer includes means for varying the information from the [second] information server computer which is displayed, in response to scrolling of the map image.

33⁵³. (Twice Amended) A computer system according to claim ³²~~52~~, wherein the client computer includes means for formulating a further request to the [second] information server computer, to identify places of interest lying within the different geographical area.

26⁵⁵. (Twice Amended) A computer system according to claim ²⁵~~54~~, wherein the client computer includes means for formulating a further request to the [second] information server computer, to identify places of interest lying within the smaller or larger geographical area.

27⁵⁶. (Amended) A computer system according to claim ²⁰~~46~~, wherein the client computer includes locating means for establishing the current geographical location of the client computer and means for passing the current geographical location of the client

E6
Cont.
computer to at least one of the [first] map server computer and the [second] information server computer.

E7
13~~51~~¹. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~¹, wherein the client computer communicates with the [first] map server computer and the [second] information server computer via a World Wide Web.

E8
15~~59~~¹. (Twice Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~¹, wherein the map data transmitted from the [first] map server computer is an image file.

E9
28~~60~~²⁰. (Twice Amended) The computer system of claim ~~46~~²⁰, wherein the client computer is connected to the [first] map server computer and the [second] information server computer via a World Wide Web.

E10
Cont.
34~~63~~. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:
a [first] map server computer for storing map data representative of a map of a geographical area and coordinate data representative of the spatial coordinates of at least one point lying within the area represented by the map;
[a second] an information server computer for storing information data representative of at least one place of interest within the geographical area, said data including data representative of the spatial coordinates of the place of interest within the area; and
a client computer, the client computer having a visual display unit;
wherein the client computer includes

a map requesting mechanism for transmitting a map request to the [first] map server computer to request transfer to the client computer of the map data,

a map image displaying mechanism for displaying an image of the map on the visual display unit, and

an information request transmitting mechanism for transmitting an information request to the [second] information server computer to identify places of interest known to it and lying within the geographical area,

wherein the [second] information server computer includes a response transmitting mechanism for transmitting to the client computer in response to the information request the data representative of at least one place of interest within the geographical area, and

wherein the client computer includes a display mechanism for displaying said data associated with the place of interest on the visual display unit.

3665. (Amended) A client computer comprising:

a visual display unit;

means for transmitting a map request to a [first] map server computer to request transfer to the client computer of map data;

means for transmitting an information request to [a second] an information server computer to identify places of interest known to the [second] information server computer and lying within a geographical area; and

means for displaying an image of a map and data relating to at least one of the places of interest on the visual display unit, wherein:

the [first] map server computer is arranged to store the map data representative of the geographical area and coordinate data representative of spatial coordinates of at least one point lying within the area represented by the map, and

the [second] information server computer is arranged to store information data representative of the at least one of the places of interest within the geographical area, said data including data representative of the spatial coordinates of a place of interest within the area.

66. (New) The client computer of claim 65, wherein the client computer is arranged to send location information, including a longitude and a latitude, within the map request.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 30-66 are pending, claims 30-32, 34-35, 39-40, 46-48, 52-53, 55-57, 59-60, 63 and 65-66 having been amended.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and her supervisor for meeting with Applicant's representative on November 21, 2000 and for agreeing that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner objected to claims, 30, 34, 35 and 65 indicating that the word "utilising the map" should be replaced by "utilizing the map" and that in claim 46, "an second" should be replaced by "a second".